

## VALDEZ FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION INC.



The Valdez Fisheries Development Association Inc., is a non profit salmon hatchery association established in 1980 in Valdez, Alaska. VFDA's mission is to propagate local Pink and Coho salmon stocks to enhance the commercial purse seine fishery and strengthen sportfisheries of Prince William Sound. VFDA has a long history of responsible salmon aquaculture benefiting sport, commercial, personal and subsistence harvesters around the state of Alaska and beyond.



VFDA employs up to 40 people and supports a payroll of \$1.5 million annually. Operating budgets average \$4.8 million and VFDA sustains itself through the sale of Pink salmon cost recovery.

VFDA provides educational opportunities for area K-12 students and internships in salmon fish culture practices.

### THE SOLOMON GULCH HATCHERY

VFDA operates the Solomon Gulch Hatchery in Port Valdez. Solomon Gulch is the largest Pink salmon hatchery in Alaska and is permitted by ADF&G for a green egg capacity of 270,000,000 Pink and 2,000,000 Coho salmon.

- Solomon Gulch Hatchery releases an average of 242,000,000 Pink salmon fry and 1,800,000 Coho salmon smolt each year. These releases provide for an average annual return of 15,800,000 adult Pink and approximately 80,000 Coho salmon each year.
- Since its inception in 1980, Solomon Gulch has created a total of 374,646,585 Pink and 3,986,560 Coho salmon for Alaska's fishermen.
- VFDA provides a release of 20,000 Coho smolt to the village of Tatitlek, Alaska for subsistence harvests.



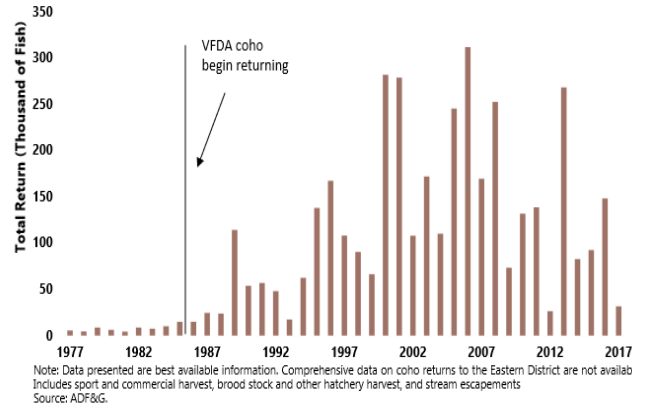
## VFDA – ENHANCING ALASKA’S SPORT & COMMERCIAL FISHERIES\*

Sport anglers harvested 240,500 Coho and Pink salmon produced by VFDA, or about 40,100 fish annually from 2012-2017.

- VFDA salmon support the Valdez Silver Salmon Derby, which has occurred annually since 1952. In 2018, 3,355 tickets and 523 season passes were sold for the derby.
- VFDA fish create the largest Pink salmon sport fishery in Alaska.



Figure 5. Historical Coho Salmon Returns to PWS Eastern District, 1977-2017



- Early returning Pink salmon produced by VFDA extend the PWS commercial salmon fishery. PWS salmon seiners derived 33 percent of total earnings from VFDA Pink salmon harvests. An annual average of 59 million pounds of VFDA produced pink and coho salmon were harvested in common property harvests (2012-2017).
- The largest annual return of VFDA salmon was 2015’s 107-million-pound harvest from a record-breaking total return of 34 million adult Pink salmon.

## VFDA – ENHANCING ALASKA’S ECONOMY\*

- VFDA’s 2017 spending in Alaska totaled \$3.4 million, including \$1.9 million in spending with Alaska organizations.
- Commercial fishermen generated average gross revenues (ex-vessel income) of \$19 million per year harvesting VFDA salmon in common property fisheries. (2012-2017)
- Regional processors earned estimated average gross margins of \$44 million per year from the sale of VFDA salmon. The first wholesale value of VFDA pink salmon — including both common property and cost recovery fish — averaged \$63 million annually and totaled \$375 million. (2012-2017).
- VFDA provides a total economic output of \$112 million and creates 760 Alaskan jobs annually. The Solomon Gulch Hatchery is a significant economic engine for Alaska’s coastal communities.



\* Economic Impacts of the Valdez Fisheries Development Association Inc. (2012-2017), McDowell Group 2018